



NOAA FY 2001 Budget Request Fact Sheet

AMERICA'S OCEAN FUTURE



Safe Navigation - \$6.2 Million Increase

NOAA requests increases totalling \$6.2 million in FY 2001 to support safe navigation and efficient marine commerce through the delivery of highly accurate, state-of-the-art, Electronic Navigation Charts (ENCs); a robust quality assurance program required for expansion of the Physical Oceanographic Real Time System (PORTS) network; improved shore-line mapping; and modernized vertical components associated with positioning information. The technological capabilities of navigational aids and positioning information has advanced rapidly in the last decade of the 20th Century, out-pacing the Government's ability to provide quality-controlled, standardized data streams to 'fuel' new navigation products and systems. This request supports the key recommendations of the U.S. ocean policy report titled *Turning to the Sea: America's Ocean Future*.



NOAA Budget

	FY 2001 Change \$ millions
National Ocean Service	
Mapping and Charting (ENCs)	\$1.3
(Shoreline)	\$1.5
Geodesy (Height Modernization)	\$0.6
Tide and Current Data (PORTS)	\$2.8
Safe Navigation Total	\$6.2

can account for up to \$300,000 of increased profit per transit. Educating commercial and recreational mariners, pilots, crews, and habitat managers in the major estuaries/ports about navigational concerns will facilitate the creation of safer operating conditions and protection of important environmental resources.

To reduce the risk of accidents and spills, mariners need information derived from new integrated electronic technologies, such as seafloor mapping, detailed large-scale digital vector charts, precise positioning systems, real-time water levels and real-time predicted oceanographic and meteorological data. The ability of today's system to handle tomorrow's emerging needs is severely challenged.

The Challenges to Safe Navigation

The recent rapid expansion of trade, wealth, and recreational opportunities has led to a corresponding growth in vessel traffic and in the potential for accidents. About 3,500 ships are involved annually in accidents on our nation's waterways, and 50% of waterborne cargo contains hazardous materials. Providing mariners with accurate and up-to-date information for safe navigation is a priority of NOAA. This information also improves economic efficiency for maritime commerce. For example, a vessel that is able to load on additional cargo because PORTS data indicates an extra foot of draft is available

Responding to the Challenge

Recognizing the critical needs of the the National Marine Transportation System, Congress mandated the Coast Guard, the Maritime Administration, the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and nine other federal agencies to collaborate with stakeholders to assess the marine transportation system and present their finding in a report to Congress. The findings were presented in *An Assessment of the U.S. Marine Transportation System: A Report to Congress, September 1999*.

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This report makes many recommendations to improve Safe Navigation in U.S. waters. Among these recommendations are:

- Elimination of the hydrographic survey backlog, and the mapping of the U.S. coastline that has never been mapped using photogrammetric methods...
- Completion of the production of Electronic Navigation Charts for U.S. and overseas waters...
- Deployment of real-time environmental observation and prediction systems, such as PORTS, in U.S. high traffic areas...

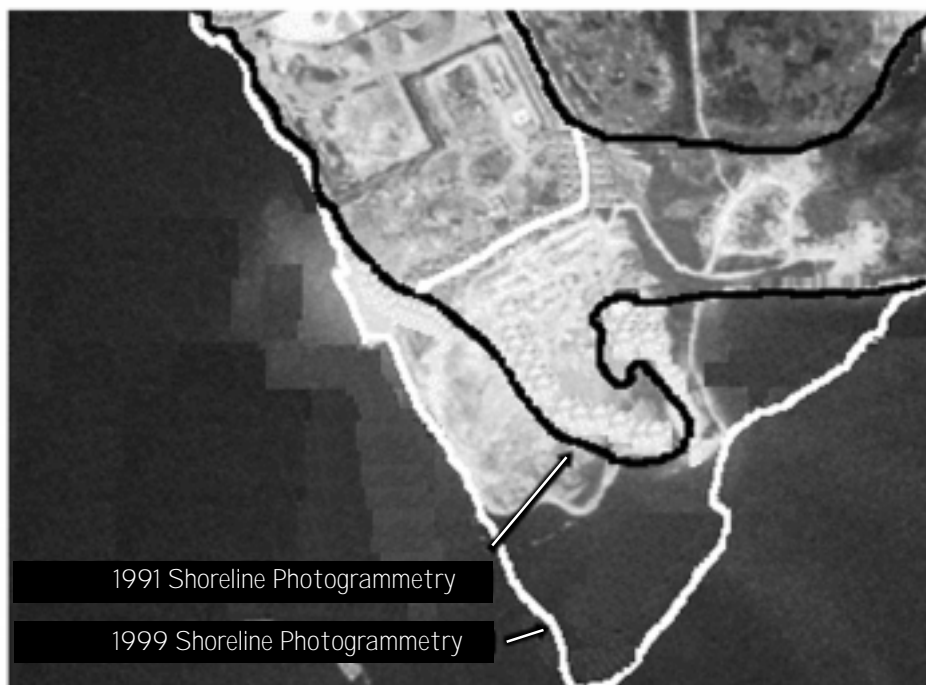
Responding to these recommendations, NOAA requests funding in FY 2001 to provide:

- A \$2.8 million increase to the Tide and Currents Line Item will enable NOAA to complete the development and implementation of the Continuous Operational Real-time Monitoring System (CORMS), a quality assurance program necessary for continuation and expansion of PORTS through cost shared partnerships with local sponsors. CORMS will rigorously quality control the real-time oceanographic and related meteorologic data critical to safe navigation, oil and hazardous material spill response efforts, and storm surge/coastal flooding warnings to ensure that real-time data can be used safely and with confidence. In addition, the funds will complete modernization of the National Water Level Observation Network, the underlying system of water level stations that are the foundation of PORTS.

- A \$1.3 million increase to the Mapping and Charting Line Item will increase the delivery of highly accurate and powerful state-of-the-art Electronic Navigation Charts. The goal to build and maintain a national suite of ENC's as the core of providing tools for safe navigation to eliminate accidents, deaths, injuries, and environmental and property damage will require substantial effort. NOAA will work with other value added producers to obtain source data for building new ENC's.

- A \$1.5 million increase to the Mapping and Charting Line Item for Define the National Shoreline will substantially move NOAA/NOS toward a five-year cycle for the refreshment of shoreline in the 40 critical port and harbor areas of the U.S.

- A \$0.6million increase to the Geodesy Line Item for Height Modernization will provide increased accuracy for 3-dimensional position applications using Global Positioning Systems (GPS). Increased accuracy improvements are needed to support such critical maritime applications such as under keel clearance (knowing how much water is under a ship), and air-gap (how much the ship will clear a bridge by).



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